Shelter and Training to Various Extremist Outfits

3576. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries providing shelter and/or training to various extremist obutfits of the country, indicating name of such outfits and type of patronage being received; and

(b) the action taken by Government and country-wise response in the matter of peace restoration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Pakistan sponsors terrorism against India as part of its policy towards India. To this end, it facilitates the recruitment, indoctrination, training and infiltration of terrorists into India. The Government have effectively and appropriately brought to the notice of international community, Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism has been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at the high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan and in statements by official spokesmen of several government.

The Government is also aware of reports about various militant organisations misusing the territories of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The matter has been taken up at appropriate levels with the respective governments, who have assured the Government of India that trey would not allow such elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to security interests of India.

India has proposed adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which is designed to overcome the shortcomings of existing international conventions against terrorism which address only specific types of terrorist acts or specific types of weapons. Existing conventions also do not adequately emphasize the responsibility of States to refrain from carrying out terrorist acts and to refrain from providing any kind of assistance to terrorists. The 54th UN General Assembly has decided that negotiations on the Indian proposed draft convention will commence from September, 2000.